

Remarks

The present communication cancels claim 25 and amends claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to include limitations concerning an overall shield having a lateral fold. The inclusion of a shield having a lateral fold was earlier indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed September 4, 2003 as providing novelty. Applicant has also amended claim 14 to make it clear that the interior spline is unshielded. For the reasons stated in the previous Office Action and the further reasons stated below, claim 14 is now allowable.

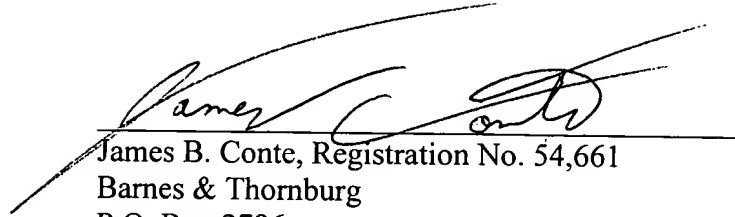
Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects all of the pending claims as unpatentable over Ikeda in further view of Arroyo. Applicant respectfully asserts amended claim 14 is patentable over Ikeda in view of Arroyo.

Ikeda has as its objective improved shielding, thus, one following the teachings of Ikeda would use a shielded spline as opposed to Applicant's now claimed unshielded spline. In fact, according to Ikeda, utilizing an unshielded spline, would eliminate all the advantages of Ikeda's spline.

Applicant's amended claim additionally includes a laterally folded overall shield. Arroyo utilizes a dielectric non-metallic wrap 50 that is longitudinally wrapped. Thus, one looking to shield Arroyo in view of Ikeda would do so by at least shielding the spline. Certainly, one would not utilize a shield having Applicant's lateral fold. Notably, the Examiner in the Office Action mailed September 4, 2003 indicated the use of the lateral folded shield in the now claimed combination had novelty. For the above reasons, claim 14 is allowable over the cited art. Claims 16 and 17 are dependent on claim 14 and are thus themselves allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



James B. Conte, Registration No. 54,661
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
Telephone: (312) 357-1313

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